

## *No. 17 - Merced Integrated Regional Water Management Region*

### Region Acceptance Process Summary

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#### **General Description of Region**

The Merced Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) region was granted conditional acceptance in the 2009 Region Acceptance Process. The conditions were as follows: (1) to explore options with the neighboring Madera and Central California (now the Yosemite-Mariposa) IRWM regions on how best to structure the regional boundaries in the area and (2) continue coordination and communication with these regions.

The Merced RWMG has continued communication and coordination efforts with the following IRWM regions which are contiguous with the Merced IRWM region: Yosemite-Mariposa, Madera, East Stanislaus, and the Westside San Joaquin regions. The regional boundary has been expanded to the southwest to include a former gap area near the Chowchilla River. A small area of overlap adjacent to the Merced River will occur with the newly forming East Stanislaus IRWM region adjacent to the Merced River based on how each region defines its boundary (Merced—boundary based on watersheds and East Stanislaus—based on a groundwater basin). There may be one Disadvantaged Community in this overlap area—the community of Ballico. A Letter of Agreement with the East Stanislaus IRWM region to manage a common shared area has been drafted, but is not yet signed. Letters of agreement have been drafted with each contiguous IRWM region sharing a common boundary, and the letter of agreement with Madera IRWM region has been signed. The Merced RWMG anticipates continuing coordination and cooperation with the Madera IRWM region in particular, since there are watersheds in common to the regions. The Merced region attended the September 2010 meeting of the Yosemite-Mariposa IRWM group and anticipate continued cooperation and communication with that effort.

#### **Interview Conclusions - Approved**

The Merced RWM region should continue its coordination efforts with neighboring IRWM regions to ensure that IRWM planning and implementations efforts progress in a complementary and coordinated manner.